



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ocean Waters Return to Bolsa Chica Wetlands For First Time in Over 100 Years

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. – Representatives from the Bolsa Chica Restoration Steering Committee will be on hand the morning of August 24, 2006 as the first tidal flow in over 100 years returns to the Bolsa Chica Wetlands as part of the largest wetland restoration project in the history of Southern California. For some on the committee the project will mark the culmination of a process that began over 30 years ago.

News media are invited to attend and interview committee members and take photographs as water returns to the wetlands. There will not be a ceremony for the general public.

Who: Members of the Bolsa Chica Restoration Steering Committee, including members from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California State Land's Commission

What: Members of the Bolsa Chica Restoration Steering Committee will be available at the ocean inlet to the Bolsa Chica Wetlands for media questions and interviews.

When: Thursday, August 24, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: The tidal flow into the Bolsa Chica Wetlands will take place about 50 yards from the southernmost parking lot at Bolsa Chica State Beach. News media should enter into the State Beach entrance from Pacific Coast Highway about one mile south of Warner Avenue, and proceed south to the end of the parking lot. Bolsa Chica Parking opens at 6:00 a.m. (See map).

Note to Editors: The earthen dam that blocks the ocean will be partially removed during the early hours of August 24 at low tide levels. As the ocean dam is removed, the first water flow through the inlet is expected to be from the Full Tidal Basin out the inlet into the ocean and may begin as early as 5:00 a.m. The rising tide will begin to flow in the inlet about 9:00 a.m. and the water level will rise within the wetlands at that time to the low high tide at 11:48 a.m. We are not sure what the tide flow will look like visually, but it will not be a massive surge or gush of water. It is more likely to be a gentle flow of water. The inlet opening marks the beginning of the tidal ebb and flow cycle that will regularly refresh the wetlands and restore the coastal salt marsh ecosystem.

Helpful Websites:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration: <http://www.fws.gov/bolsachica/>

History of Bolsa Chica Wetlands: http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/media/bc/History_of_Bolsa_Chica.pdf

Bolsa Chica Wetlands Fact Sheet: http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/media/bc/Bolsa_Chica_Fact_Sheet.pdf